

by the Examiner.

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 13-14 and 16-21 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Hartung et al. Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Hartung et al. Claims 5 and 7-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Hartung et al. in view of Prior art Figure 1D. Based on the following, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

In response to the above rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the claims recite features not anticipated by Hartung et al. In particular, such features include "modifying said selected coefficient so as to represent an auxiliary data symbol", as recited in Claims 1 and 17, and "transform coefficients obtained by transform coding the information signal, modified so as to represent said symbols", as recited in Claims 13, 18 and 20.

On page 2623, left column, lines 14-17, Hartung et al. only discloses:

"After the inverse quantization, we have one quantized DCT coefficient of the current signal block. We then add the corresponding DCT coefficient from the transformed watermark block, yielding a watermarked DCT coefficient".

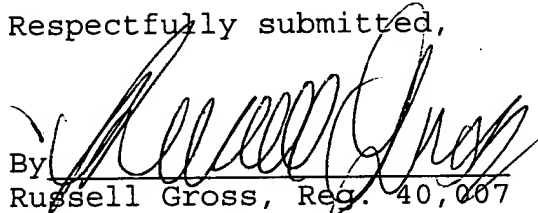
Based on the above disclosure, Hartung et al. adds a corresponding DCT coefficient from the transformed watermark, yielding a watermarked DCT coefficient. However, nowhere is it disclosed in Hartung et al. that the watermarked DCT coefficient represents any kind of symbol. Therefore, it is respectfully

submitted that Hartung et al. does not anticipate the presently recited "modifying said selected coefficient so as to represent an auxiliary data symbol" or "transform coefficients obtained by transform coding the information signal, modified so as to represent said symbols".

In view of the above-described distinctions, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of Claims 1-21 is neither anticipated nor made obvious by Hartung et al. alone or in combination with Prior Art Figure 1D. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn so that the present application may proceed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any fee (except the issue fee) to Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:

**COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS**  
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On January 31, 2003

By Shu Chapa

## A P P E N D I X

20. (AMENDED) An information signal with embedded auxiliary data, respective symbols of said auxiliary data being represented by selected signal samples, characterized in that said signal samples are transform coefficients obtained by transform coding the information signal, modified so as to represent said symbols and encoded into variable-length code words.



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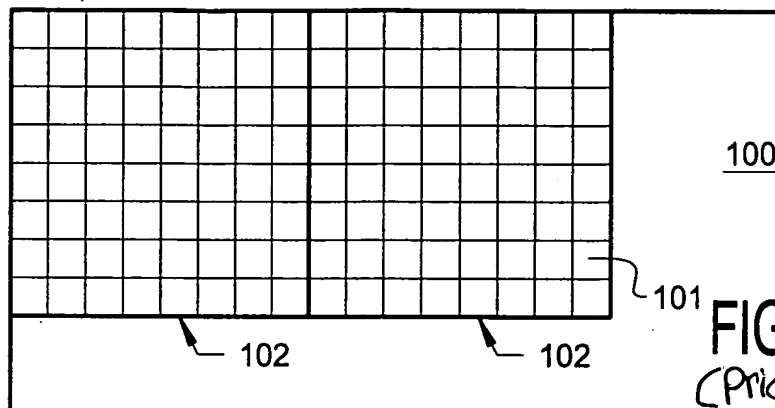


FIG. 1A  
(Prior Art)

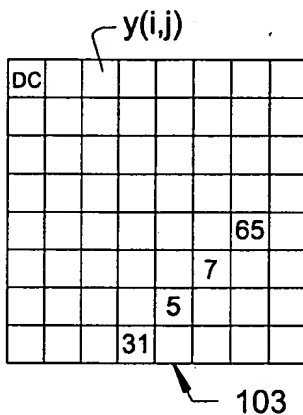


FIG. 1B  
(Prior Art)

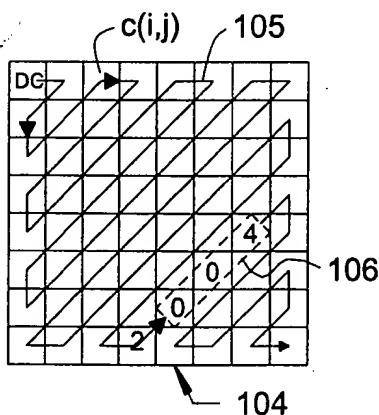


FIG. 1C  
(Prior Art)

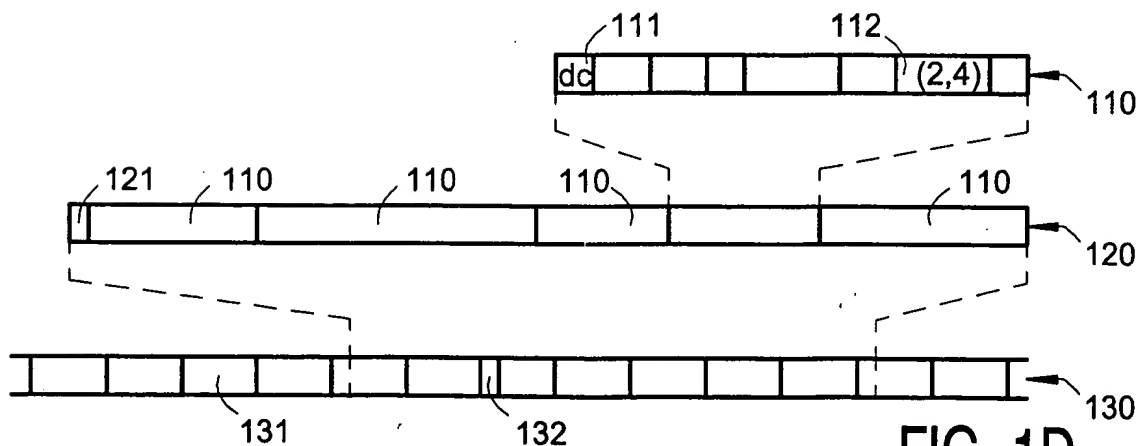


FIG. 1D  
(Prior Art)

Approved  
12/18/03